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Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2022 8:01 PM
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Subject: Strategic Update - 2022 02 08

STRATEGIC UPDATES FOR DEPUTY SOLICITOR GENERAL

The information in this report is current to 2022-02-08 at 1900 hours.

Opposition to Public Health Measures

The Ministry of Education provided information via the Ministry of Health that a protest was taking place at a vaccination clinic held at George O'Neill Public School in Nipigon today. OPP was noted to be on-site and no issues have been reported.

Open Source Reporting

Social media messaging indicates an Ontario-wide school walkout is being planned for February 11th, 2022 to protest mask mandates and public health restrictions. The level of organization and anticipated participation in the walkout is not currently known.

ASSESSMENT

Currently, there is no specific, identified threat and monitoring remains attuned to where ideologically motivated extremism may manifest among participants in or supporters of opposition activities.

Freedom Convoy 2022 (Ottawa)

Police Reporting

T The Ottawa Police Service (OPS) reported low numbers of protestors at Parliament Hill today, with approximately 30 protestors present on Wellington Street and surrounding area throughout the day. It is estimated that there are 400 trucks remaining in the downtown core. Reporting indicates that there were no notable conflicts between protestors and counter-protestors.

OPS reported that 23 arrests have been made and 1300 tickets issued in relation to the demonstrations.

OPS have advised the public of upcoming enforcement of the 10-day injunction granted by the Superior Court prohibiting anyone from using their car horn or an airhorn on any street north of Highway 417 between February 7-17, 2022. Media reporting indicates that the injunction has been largely effective.

The OPS continues to release messaging to the public that anyone attempting to bring material supports (ie. gas, etc.) to protestors could be subject to arrest.

OPS has requested Ministry of Transportation enforcement resources to assist with towing capacity. MTO assets are to be treated as a provincial resource and will be deployed through the OPP Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) under the direction of the MCIC.

Open Source Reporting

Open source research has identified a “Call for Freedom” rally being organized for February 12, 2022 at Parliament Hill.

Media reporting indicates that two unidentified individuals set fire to a box of fire starters in the lobby of an apartment building in downtown Ottawa in the early morning hours of February 6, 2022. The apartment building is a few blocks from downtown. The reporting indicates that there was a conflict between some residents and anti-mandate protestors a few hours before the fire. The OPS is investigating the incident. There is currently no information available to connect this incident to the ongoing blockade.

Social media messaging indicates that individuals are organizing transporting donations in support of the Ottawa blockade, departing from Fort McMurray, Alberta on February 15, 2022 and arriving in Ottawa on February 18, 2022. Scheduled stops include Edmonton; Lloydminster; Saskatoon; Winnipeg; Kenora; Thunder Bay; Sault Ste. Marie; and Sudbury. Cash donations are also requested.

The new fundraiser on GiveSendGo has raised almost \$6.4 M USD and a Bitcoin wallet for the blockade contains over \$685,000 CAD. The ADOPT A TRUCKER account on GiveSendGo has raised almost \$556,000 CAD.

Ambassador Bridge

Police Reporting

Traffic at the Ambassador Bridge has been disrupted by protestors since the evening of February 7, 2022 (last night). Canadian bound lanes of Ambassador Bridge are currently closed and traffic is slowly moving in United States-bound lanes. Approximately 200-250 protestors are causing the disruptions by deliberately immobilizing or slow-rolling their vehicles while some protestors are arriving on foot. This incident remains within Windsor Police Service jurisdiction and OPP are engaged due to traffic building on Hwy 401.

Bluewater Bridge

Police Reporting

Westbound lanes in Highway 402 are currently backed up from Bluewater Bridge. Inbound traffic from the United States is also backed up over the bridge. Police are gathering information in order to disrupt and prevent the blockading of Highway 402 and the Blue Water Bridge Port of Entry.

Toronto Demonstrations

Police Reporting

Police reporting noted minimal activity in the Queen’s Park area today, with no issues to report.

Open Source Reporting

Social media information indicates that planning for 'Freedom Convoy Toronto: Round Two' (2022-02-11 to 2022-02-13) has begun circulating. OPP and Legislative Protective Service are aware and engaged in planning for possible demonstrations.

Other Potential Activity

Local convoy actions are anticipated in jurisdictions across the province, please see the updated event schedule for additional information.

Open Source Reporting

Social media messaging has called for peaceful protests in all jurisdictions that have provided police personnel to Ottawa.

ASSESSMENT

The situation in Ottawa remains volatile and represents a public safety threat and an officer safety threat. Support actions across the province appear to be increasing, particularly at border points. Ongoing blockades of bridges to the United States are almost certain to disrupt international trade and negatively affect the Ontario and Canadian economies.

The protest landscape related to public health restrictions and vaccine mandates is fluid and dynamic, with solidarity demonstrations or convoys continuing to develop in many jurisdictions. Organized and pop-up protests, convoys and solidarity actions at the local level, including blockades at international ports of entry, should be expected for the foreseeable future. The potential for conflict amongst individuals and groups with differing agendas at these protests persists, which could pose both a public safety and officer safety threat. At this juncture, there is no concrete, specific, or credible threat with regard to the Freedom Convoy protest and Operation BearHug 2.0 activity. However, the possibility that a lone actor or group of individuals could enact a physical threat with little or no warning cannot be excluded.

EVENT SCHEDULE

February 8, 2022

- **Lambton County/Sarnia: Freedom Convoy** – WB 402 blocked; inbound traffic from US obstructed; traffic possibly being redirected to Ambassador Bridge blockade
- **Windsor: Ambassador Bridge** – lanes inbound from US blocked
- **Sault Ste. Marie:** blockade at or near international bridge (1200hrs) – unconfirmed; no further detail
- **Hanover-Walkerton: Freedom Convoy** driving circular local loop (1800hrs)

February 9, 2022

- **Renfrew County: School Walkout**
- **Hanover-Walkerton: Freedom Convoy** driving circular local loop (1800hrs)

February 10, 2022

- **Hanover-Walkerton: Freedom Convoy** driving circular local loop (1800hrs)

February 11, 2022

- **Sarnia: Tractor Convoy** - HWY 402 westbound (0600hrs). Organizers plan to block the highway until all mandates are lifted.

- **Ontario: School Walkout to Lift Mandates**
- **Hanover-Walkerton: Freedom Convoy** driving circular local loop (1800hrs)

February 12, 2022

- **Ottawa: Call for Freedom Rally** – Parliament Hill (no further details)
- **Saint-Honoré-de-Shenley: Convoy to Ottawa** (0600hrs)
- **Montreal: Rally “Unis dans l’amour pour la liberté”** (1300hrs) – some participants will go to Ottawa
- **Kingston: Slow Roll** – HWY 38 carpool (1300hrs)
- **Niagara Falls: USA-Canada Convoys 2022** – Peace Bridge (1100hrs) – currently being organized only on the New York side of the border
- **Hanover-Walkerton: Freedom Convoy** driving circular local loop (1800hrs)

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